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EDITORIAL

The Way Forward

By the time you start reading this Editorial, you will have noticed the *Hong Kong Practitioner* is different. This is the direct result of the comments which you gave us last year. (A summary of your responses is listed on Page 138). The readership profile reveals that our readers have more varied clinical background than we thought. As for the open-ended questions, the most common responses were to make *HK Pract* relevant to the needs of everyday busy general practitioners. Most readers wanted more clinical update articles to help them keep up to date with the latest clinical advances, while many also wanted to see more general practice research papers.

In view of your comments, the Editorial Board has recently decided to adopt the mission of the *HK Pract* as follows: "To promote the development of quality general practice/family medicine in Hong Kong and the region." We hope, by having a clear mission, we will be able to constantly remind ourselves of our major objectives in order to serve you better.

In this issue of the *HK Pract*, you will find new features like Radiological Conference, Minor Surgery, Clinical Challenge, Clinical Quiz and Current Therapeutics. We hope to make these features a regular part of your Journal. These additions are a direct response to the wish of most readers to have more clinical articles. We are also making the Clinical Quiz an open competition for our readers and a prize will be provided each month. You are all invited to participate and you may win a prize.

The better printing is an essential part of this improvement exercise as it makes the printing of quality x-rays and coloured clinical pictures possible. The use of A4 paper will allow us greater flexibility with the layouts of articles.

Although the specialty of general practice/family medicine has not yet reached its full potential in Hong Kong, it is undoubtedly better developed than many countries in other parts of the world and in particular better than many countries in our region. We will therefore start having Chinese translation of the summaries of some of our papers which we hope will help promote quality general practice/family medicine in our region. These translations may also be of benefit to some of our local readers who may then become better familiarized with the Chinese terms which we often have to use in our daily practice.

I would like to once again appeal to our general practitioner colleagues for their support. We would like to see more papers by general practitioners in the *HK Pract* which is a journal for general practitioners. The Editorial Board and I are happy to offer any help we can to our fellow general practitioners who may be interested in having their articles published in the *HK Pract*.

Finally, I must emphasize that the Editorial Board and I aim to continue to improve the *HK Pract*. This is going to be a continuing process. Please make the *HK Pract* your journal by letting us know your suggestions. ■

RESULTS OF READERS' SURVEY

The survey was conducted during October and November 1995. One hundred and fifty completed questionnaires were returned.

The main findings are as follows:-

a.	Mean age	46 years
b.	Male : Female	4 : 1
c.	Mean years of clinical practice	20.94 years
d.	Private : Public	7 : 3
e.	Reading Time:	(%)
	up to 15 minutes	14.7
	16 – 30 minutes	34.7
	31 – 45 minutes	22.0
	46 – 60 minutes	16.7
	over 60 minutes	12.0
f.	Type of practice	(%)
	General Practice	59.3
	General Medicine	9.3
	General Surgery	3.3
	Obstetrics	3.3
	Gynaecology	3.3
	Paediatrics	2.7
	ENT	0.7
	Orthopaedics	2.7
	Psychiatry	4.7
	A & E	0.7
	Ophthalmology	0.7
	Dermatology	6.7
	Missing	2.7
g.	Overall contents	(%)
	Very positive	12.0
	Positive	65.3
	Neutral	15.3
	Negative	3.3
	Very Negative	0.7
h.	Usefulness as CME	(%)
	Very useful	19.3
	Useful	68.7
	Of little use	8.0
	No useful	0.7
i.	Mean scores of "What do you like about the Journal?"	
	Editorials	2.41
	Original articles	2.20
	Update articles	1.89
	Discussion paper	2.22

(1 = Strongly agree, 2 = Agree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Disagree, 5 = Strongly disagree)

Acknowledgements

The Editorial Board would like to thank all those who participated in the survey for their valuable comments.

Lam Tai Pong
Editor

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

Circulation and Content

The Hong Kong Practitioner is published monthly by the Hong Kong College of General Practitioners.

It has a circulation of a 4000, distributed to all members of the College, and other doctors and academic institutions in Hong Kong and overseas, and private subscribers.

The aim of the journal is to promote the development of quality family medicine/general practice in Hong Kong and the region, by publishing editorials, original articles, update reviews, letters to the editor, news of future meetings, and self-assessment material.

Manuscript Criteria — General

Papers submitted for publication should fulfil the following criteria:-

- Not previously published, or currently under review by another journal.*
- Typed on one side of A4 size paper, double spaced, with 3 cm. margins.*
- Three copies should be submitted.*
- List of full names of maximum of six authors, giving senior degree and current appointment of each.*
- The principle author should give his or her address for correspondence.*
- Authorship details should be on a sheet separate from the main text to assist in sending papers 'blind' to referees. Spelling should conform to the Oxford Dictionary.*
- Abbreviations should be spelt in full when first used.*
- Generic names of drugs to be used. Proprietary names may be used in parenthesis on the first occasion if necessary.*
- SI units should be used, with traditional units in parenthesis.*
- Tables and illustrations should be on separate sheets and clearly labelled. The titles should enable interpretation without reference to the text.*
- Photographs should be labelled on the reverse.*
- References should conform with the Vancouver style as used in this journal, and must be clearly labelled in the correct order in the text.*
- Five keywords should be given, to aid index cross-reference.*
- While a liberal policy is adopted in matters of controversy, no personal attacks, explicit or implied, are permitted.*
- Attempts at self advertising or unwarranted promotion of particular drugs or procedures will lead to rejection of the article.*
- Ten copies of reprints will be provided free to authors. Additional copies will be charged at nominal rates.*
- All articles are peer-reviewed.*
- All articles are subject to editing.*
- Correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, The Hong Kong College of General Practitioners, Duke of Windsor Building, 8/F, 15 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong.*

Copyright

Authors assign copyright of all articles to the journal. However 10% of an article may be used elsewhere without permission.

Categories of Articles

Original Research Papers

Papers on original research relating to primary care in Hong Kong are particularly welcome.

They should be set out in standard form with an Introduction giving background and objectives; Method giving details of subjects, study design and measurements, interventions and outcomes, statistical methods; Results; Discussion; Conclusions; References; and Acknowledgements.

Papers should be between 1,500 and 3,500 words in length.

Graphs and tables should be limited to six and references to 40.

An abstract of up to 200 words should be set out under headings of Objective, Design, Subjects, Main Outcome Measures, Results, Conclusions.

Educational Update Articles

They should be relevant to the General Practitioner who is trying to keep up to date with recent advances in primary care.

Articles should be between 1,500 and 3,500 words, and structured with a summary, introduction, and main body of article with appropriate subheadings.

Graphs and tables should be limited to six and references to 40.

Discussion Papers

Papers on topics and issues of relevance to primary care are welcome. They should present an hypothesis or a problem, and offer a way of solving it or a solution for discussion. Article length 1,500 to 3,500 words, and structured with a summary, introduction, and main body of article with appropriate subheadings.

Case Reports

These articles should be of up to 1,500 words reporting cases of particular interest, difficult cases, unusual presentations or outcomes, carrying a useful message to other doctors; with no more than one table or illustration and five references.

Letters to the Editor

Letters should be up to 500 words with no more than one table or illustration and five references.

Hong Kong Practitioner welcomes your comments.

Please contact us:

by mail at

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We welcome comments for publication, queries and concerns, and suggestions for articles.